

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark
Office
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

in its capacity as elected Office

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 12 October 2000 (12.10.00)	
International application No. PCT/GB00/00440	Applicant's or agent's file reference A25696 WO
International filing date (day/month/year) 11 February 2000 (11.02.00)	Priority date (day/month/year) 18 February 1999 (18.02.99)
Applicant APPLEBY, Stephen, Clifford	

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

☒ in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:

24 August 2000 (24.08.00)

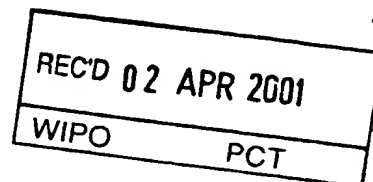
☐ in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

2. The election ☒ was

☐ was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35	Authorized officer <p style="text-align: center;">S. Mafla</p> Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38
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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference A25696 WO		FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/GB00/00440	International filing date (day/month/year) 11/02/2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 18/02/1999	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G06F17/28			
Applicant BRITISH TELECOMMUNICATIONS P.L.C... et al.			

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.


2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☒ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☒ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 24/08/2000	Date of completion of this report 29.03.2001
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer Barraco, G Telephone No. +49 89 2399 2172



INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/GB00/00440

I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of *(substitute sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).)*:

Description, pages:

1-26 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-12 as originally filed

Drawings, sheets:

1/13-13/13 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/GB00/00440

☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims 1-20
	No:	Claims

Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims
	No:	Claims 1-20

Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims 1-20
	No:	Claims

2. Citations and explanations
see separate sheet

VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:
see separate sheet

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:
see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/GB00/00440

Re Item V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

The various definitions of the invention given in independent Claims 1, 6, 7, 11, and 12 are such that the claims as a whole are not clear and concise, contrary to Article 6 PCT. The claims should be recast to include only the minimum necessary number of independent claims in any one category, with dependent claims as appropriate (Rule 6.4(a)-(c) PCT).

In the present case it is considered appropriate to use only one independent claim in any category, with dependencies of claims clearly defined, see in this regard also Rule 6.4 PCT.

Furthermore, insofar as the present text can be understood, the subject-matter of above independent Claims does not involve an inventive step, and therefore does not satisfy the criterion set forth in Article 33(3) PCT.

If, in fact, it is intended to protect a computerized method / system for automatic machine translation which adopts the technique of providing a language-independent semantic structure using abstracting rules defining a set of " alternations" which words of the source language can take, as it appears from the description, see pages 1 and 2, it is noticed that database searching methods of the prior art like for example the one described in the document D1: US-A-5 386 556 adopts such known technique.

Therefore the subject matter of an hypothetical clarified independent claim implementing said known technique does not involve an inventive step (Rule 65(1)(2) PCT.

Dependent claims 2-5, 8-10 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/GB00/00440

of inventive step, because they are considered obvious operational features of a machine translation system as the one known from D1.

Re Item VII

Certain defects in the international application

Contrary to the requirements of Rule 5.1(A)(ii) PCT, the documents D1 is not identified in the description and the relevant background art disclosed therein is not briefly discussed.

Re Item VIII

Certain observations on the international application

Reference signs in parentheses have not been inserted in the claims to increase their intelligibility, Rule 6.2(B) PCT. This applies to both the preamble and characterising portion.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference A25696 WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/GB 00/ 00440	International filing date (day/month/year) 11/02/2000	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 18/02/1999
Applicant BRITISH TELECOMMUNICATIONS P.L.C... et al.		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 3 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :

☐ contained in the international application in written form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box I).

3. ☐ **Unity of Invention is lacking** (see Box II).

4. With regard to the **title**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

☐ as suggested by the applicant.

☒ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

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☐ None of the figures.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

PC/GB 00/00440

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 G06F17/28

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

WPI Data, EPO-Internal, PAJ, IBM-TDB, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X,P	WO 99 08202 A (BRITISH TELECOMMUNICATIONS PLC) 18 February 1999 (1999-02-18) cited in the application the whole document ---	1-11
X	US 5 386 556 A (HEDIN ET AL) 31 January 1995 (1995-01-31) the whole document ---	1-11
A	HOVY: "HOW MT WORKS" BYTE, vol. 18, no. 1, January 1993 (1993-01), pages 167-176, XP000334434 London, GB page 174, column 1, line 1 -page 175, column 1, last line --- -/--	1-11

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

12 July 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

19/07/2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Abram, R

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB 00/00440

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>WITTKAM: "DLT - AN INDUSTRIAL R&D PROJECT FOR MULTILINGUAL MT"</p> <p>COLING BUDAPEST - PROCEEDINGS OF THE 12TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COMPUTATIONAL LINGUISTICS,</p> <p>22 - 27 August 1988, pages 756-759,</p> <p>XP000747231</p> <p>Budapest, HU</p> <p>the whole document -----</p>	1-11

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/GB 00/00440

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9908202	A	18-02-1999	AU 8737498 A EP 1000401 A	01-03-1999 17-05-2000
US 5386556	A	31-01-1995	SE 466029 B BR 9001025 A CA 2011286 A EP 0387226 A JP 2291076 A NO 901026 A SE 8900774 A	02-12-1991 26-02-1991 06-09-1990 12-09-1990 30-11-1990 07-09-1990 07-09-1990